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# PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

# REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CONVENTION'S TRUST FUNDS FOR 2000-2001

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

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# I. INTRODUCTION

## A. Mandate

1. Rule 10 (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1) provides that the provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall include, as appropriate, the proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements.

2. In decision 4/COP.4 on the programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to report at its fifth session on the financial performance of the Convention budget, as well as on the status of trust funds established under the financial rules. In the same decision the Executive Secretary was requested to report at the fifth session on the outcome of the consultations with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on establishment of common administrative services in Bonn.

3. This document reports on the actual income and expenditure for the biennium up to 30 June 2001, and on the estimated income and expenditure to 31 December 2001. The projection of expenditure is based on the assumption that all Parties will have paid their outstanding contributions by the end of the year 2001. In addition to the performance level, the present report gives information on programme implementation and results achieved. This document takes into account decision 4/COP.4 which authorizes the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines 1 to 6 of the approved budget of the biennium 2000-2001, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each appropriation lines shall apply, particularly for financing of the two meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, and the meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology.

## B. Scope of the report

4. This document is organized as follows:

- Section II contains information on budget performance for the biennium for the four trust funds administered by the secretariat, namely the General Trust Fund for the Core Budget (General Fund), the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities of the UNCCD (Supplementary Fund), Special Trust Fund for Participation in the Process of the UNCCD (Participation Fund), and the Trust Fund for the Supplementary Contribution for Convention Activities from the host Government (Bonn Fund).

- Section III provides information on the management of human resources.

- Section IV presents the status of the working capital reserve.

- Section V gives information on the establishment of common administrative services in Bonn.

5. This document should be read in conjunction with the performance report for the Supplementary Fund in document ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.4. It follows the basic structures and updates the information of an earlier document ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.6, which reported on the actual income and expenditures of the Convention trust funds as at 30 June 2000 and estimated expenditures as at 31 December 2000.

## II. BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT

### A. Trust fund for the core budget and supplementary activities

#### 1. Report on income

6. The status of contributions to the UNCCD General and Supplementary funds is summarized in table 1 below:

Table 1. Summary of income in the biennium as at 30 June 2001
(US dollars)

| Source | Approved budget biennium | Core budget contributions received as at 30 June 2001 | % | Supplementary Fund contributions as at 30 June 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Balance of the General Fund brought forward from 1999[1] | | 561,641 | | |
| Assessed contributions from Parties | 12,859,300 | 7,468,721 | 58.1 | |
| Special contribution from Germany | 1,136,400 (DM 2 million) | 976,465 (DM 2 million) | 85.9 | 0 |
| Balance of Supplementary Fund brought forward from previous period[2] | | | | 2,544,457 |
| Voluntary contributions to the Supplementary Fund | | | | 3,303,859 |
| **Subtotal** | **13,995,700** | **9,006,827** | **64.4** | **5,848,316** |
| Prior year savings on obligations | | 146,237 | | 185,278 |
| Interest income | | 130,628 | | 235,396 |
| **Total** | **13,995,700** | **9,283,692** | **66.3** | **6,268,990** |

[1] This includes an amount of US$ 417,011 working capital reserve.

[2] This amount includes required operating capital reserves, and earmarked supplementary funds of which either the earmarked activities had not yet taken place by the end of the year or donor's approval to utilize the funds was pending.

7. As at 30 June 2001, 78 Parties had not paid their contributions for the year 2000 and only 37 Parties had fully paid their contributions for the whole biennium. Received contributions represent 58.1 per cent (US$ 7,468,721) while unpaid contributions represent 41.9 per cent (US$ 5,390,579) of the approved budget. The Executive Secretary continues to send out reminder letters stating that all Parties who have not yet paid their contributions in full should do so without further delay. The status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds is reported in ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.6.

8. In addition to the above, voluntary contribution of US$ 976,465 have been received from the host Government in accordance with the host country agreement. Table 1 takes these contributions into consideration. It should be noted that the approved estimated amount was based on prevailing United Nations exchange rate as at November 1999, while the actual contribution are based on the prevailing United Nations exchange rate at the time of payments in 2000 and 2001.

Table 2. Approved core budget 2000-2001
(US dollars)

| | 2000 | 2001 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Programme expenditure | 5,984,500 | 6,256,700 | 12,241,200 |
| Overhead charge to the United Nations | 778,000 | 813,400 | 1,591,400 |
| Increase in working capital reserves[1] | 135,400 | 27,700 | 163,100 |
| **Total approved budget** | **6,897,900** | **7,097,800** | **13,995,700** |
| Less contribution from host Government | 568,200 | 568,200 | 1,136,400 |
| **Net total (applied to indicative scale assessment)** | **6,329,700** | **6,529,600** | **12,859,300** |

[1] At its second session the COP reaffirmed that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund shall be set at a level of 8.3 per cent of core budget expenditure.

## 2. Report on expenditures

9. Tables 3 and 4 summarize actual expenditure under the General and Supplementary Trust Funds as at 30 June 2001 and total estimated expenditure for the biennium, broken down by programme and object of expenditure.

Table 3. Expenditure in 2000-2001 by programme
(US dollars)

| Programme | Approved budget 2000-2001 | Actual expenditure as at 30 June 2001 | Estimated expenditure 1 July 2001 to 31 Dec. 2001 | Total estimated expenditure as at 31 Dec. 2001 | % | Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Policy-making organs | 115,000 | 48,478 | 66,522 | 115,000 | 100.0 | 0 |
| Executive direction and management | 1,548,800 | 1,040,730 | 447,000 | 1,487,730 | 96.1 | 0 |
| Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies | 1,065,800 | 825,581 | 232,580 | 1,058,161 | 99.3 | 837,524 |
| Facilitation of implementation and coordination | 3,882,100 | 2,336,385 | 1,366,500 | 3,702,885 | 95 4 | 3,269,014 |
| External relations and public information and NGOs | 946,200 | 665,517 | 279,000 | 944,517 | 99.8 | 479,307 |
| Administration and finance | 2,033,300 | 1,193,809 | 794,000 | 1,987,809 | 97.8 | 0 |
| Global Mechanism | 2,650,000 | 1,597,400 | 1,052,600 | 2,650,000 | 100.0 | 0 |
| **Subtotal** | **12,241,200** | **7,707,900** | **4,238,202** | **11,946,102** | **97.6** | **4,585,845** |
| Programme support costs[1] | 1,591,400 | 1,002,027 | 550,966 | 1,552,993 | 97.6 | 596,160 |
| **Total[2]** | **13,832,600** | **8,709,927** | **4,789,168** | **13,499,095** | **97.6** | **5,182,005** |

[1] In accordance with the United Nations guidelines ST/SGB/188, paragraph 47, a 13 per cent programme support factor has been applied to expenditures on all the trust funds except where exemptions have been authorized by the Controller.

[2] This total does not include 8.3 per cent working capital reserve.

Table 4. Total expenditure in 2000-2001 by object of expenditure
(US dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Budget 2000-2001 | Actual expenditure as at 30 June 2001 | Estimated expenditure 1 July 2001 to 31 Dec. 2001 | Total estimated expenditure as at 31 Dec. 2001 | % | Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs | 5,723,500 | 3,951,046 | 1,629,200 | 5,580,246 | 97.5 | 607,300 |
| Consultants and experts | 1,061,600 | 572,026 | 477,300 | 1,049,326 | 98.8 | 270,295 |
| Travel of participants and representatives | 37,600 | 30,997 | 6,000 | 36,997 | 98.4 | 1,362,947 |
| Travel of staff | 1,267,400 | 829,042 | 434,792 | 1,263,834 | 99.7 | 382,572 |
| Contractual services | 633,400 | 287,591 | 257,500 | 545,091 | 86.1 | 294,644 |
| General operating expenses | 669,700 | 365,413 | 260,000 | 625,413 | 93.4 | 0 |
| Hospitality | 48,000 | 20,086 | 27,810 | 47,896 | 99.8 | 0 |
| Supplies and material | 150,000 | 54,299 | 93,000 | 147,299 | 98.2 | 0 |
| Grants and contributions (GM) | 2,650,000 | 1,597,400 | 1,052,600 | 2,650,000 | 100.0 | 1,668,087 |
| **Subtotal** | **12,241,200** | **7,707,900** | **4,238,202** | **11,946,102** | **97.6** | **4,585,845** |
| Programme support costs | 1,591,400 | 1,002,027 | 550,966 | 1,552,993 | 97.6 | 596,160 |
| **Total** | **13,832,600** | **8,709,927** | **4,789,168** | **13,499,095** | **97.6** | **5,182,005** |

10. Tables 3 and 4 indicate that the overall expenditure level under the core budget is 97.6 per cent of the approved budget. The major savings are recorded under contractual services due to the fact that the interpretation services for the Ad Hoc Working Group meeting, previously budgeted under this budget line, were provided by the United Nations.

## 3. Programme delivery

### 3.1. Policy-making organs

Table 5. Expenditure in 2000-2001 for the policy-making organs
(US dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Budget 2000-2001 | Actual expenditure as at 30 June 2001 | Estimated expenditure 1 July 2001 to 31 Dec. 2001 | Total estimated expenditure as at 31 Dec. 2001 | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Travel of staff | 75,000 | 30,788 | 44,212 | 75,000 | 100.0 |
| Hospitality | 40,000 | 17,690 | 22,310 | 40,000 | 100.0 |
| **Total** | **115,000** | **48,478** | **66,522** | **115,000** | **100.0** |

11. Expenditure under this programme is anticipated to be US$ 115,000 by the end of the biennium. Funds under this programme are used to finance the travel expenses of technical personnel from the United Nations Headquarters in New York required to support the sessions of the Conference of the Parties. Funds under this programme will also be used to cover costs of official receptions organized by the secretariat in connection with the sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

### 3.2. Executive direction and management

Table 6. Expenditure in 2000-2001 for Executive Direction and Management (EDM)
(US dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Budget 2000-2001 | Actual expenditure as at 30 June 2001 | Estimated expenditure 1 July 2001 to 31 Dec. 2001 | Total estimated expenditure as at 31 Dec. 2001 | % | Supplementary Fund |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs (1 ASG, 1 D1, 1 P3, 2 GS) | 1,065,800 | 705,648 | 300,200 | 1,005,848 | 94.4 | 0 |
| Consultants and experts | 20,000 | 12,120 | 7,800 | 19,920 | 99.6 | 0 |
| Travel of staff | 450,000 | 319,156 | 130,000 | 449,156 | 99.8 | 0 |
| Contractual services | 5,000 | 1,410 | 3,500 | 4,910 | 98.2 | 0 |
| Hospitality | 8,000 | 2,396 | 5,500 | 7,896 | 98.7 | 0 |
| **Total** | **1,548,800** | **1,040,730** | **447,000** | **1,487,730** | **96.1** | **0** |

12. Estimated expenditure for the biennium under this programme is US$ 1,487,730 (96,1% of the approved budget). The expenditures cover salaries and related costs of the Executive Direction and Management staff, official travel and hospitality.

13. The Executive Direction and Management has provided policy guidance based on the COP decisions and coordinated the activities of the secretariat. The Executive Direction and Management has given special attention to integrating the national action programmes into the development programmes of the affected developing countries and their bilateral and multilateral partners. In his external relations, the Executive Secretary has given high priority to developing closer cooperation with other relevant conventions, United Nations bodies, inter-governemental and non-governenmental organizations. The Executive Secretary has also given priority to awareness raising and advocacy for the desertification issues. Since the beginning of the biennium, 15 Parties acceded to, or ratified, the Convention, increasing the total number of Parties to 175 as at 30 June 2001. More Parties are expected to accede by the end of the year.

### 3.3. Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies

Table 7. Expenditure in 2000-2001 for substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies
(US dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Budget 2000-2001 | Actual expenditure as at 30 June 2001 | Estimated expenditure 1 July 2001 to 31 Dec. 2001 | Total estimated expenditure | % | Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs (2 P5, 1 P4, 1 P3, 1 P2, 1 GS) | 742,200 | 549,158 | 186,000 | 735,158 | 99.1 | 81,116 |
| Consultants and experts | 162,000 | 159,001 | 3,000 | 162,001 | 100.0 | 9,269 |
| Travel of participants and representatives | 37,600 | 30,997 | 6,000 | 36,997 | 98.4 | 103,790 |
| Travel of staff | 80,000 | 66,425 | 13,580 | 80,005 | 100.0 | 16,283 |
| Contractual services | 44,000 | 20,000 | 24,000 | 44,000 | 100.0 | 190,915 |
| Grants and contributions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 348,844 |
| **Total** | **1,065,800** | **825,581** | **232,580** | **1,058,161** | **99.3** | **750,217** |

14. Under the estimated total expenditure of US$ 1,058,161, US$ 735,158 is used for salaries and other staff costs. US$ 162,001 is spent for the preparation of official COP documents. US$ 36,997 is used for travel of representatives to the CST bureau meeting, US$ 80,005 for travel of staff to scientific workshops and ad hoc panel meetings, and US$ 44,000 is spent for interpretation services.

15. During the biennium, four meetings of the Bureau of the Conference and two meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology are convened.

16. The fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 4) was convened in Bonn, Germany, from 11 to 22 December 2000. The Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) met from 15 to 21 December 2000, to start the review of reports on the implementation of the Convention submitted to COP 3 and COP 4. The Conference took action for further strengthening the implementation of the Convention and adopted decisions on an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for Central and Eastern Europe, as well as on the collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, and on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology, among other issues. As already specified in table 21 of document ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.1, the incremental costs of US$ 835,000 including the overhead of holding the COP 4 in Bonn were covered under the "Bonn Fund", additional contribution by Germany and savings from the core budget as authorized by the COP.

17. Approximately sixty pre-session and in-session documents have been prepared for the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the AHWG. In the year 2001, some forty pre-session documents will be submitted to COP 5.

18. In parallel with official sessions of COP 4, the Third Round Table of Members of Parliaments was organized on 11 and 12 December 2000, in which 34 Parliamentarians from 20 countries all around the world participated. The Declaration of the Members of Parliaments was included in the final report of COP 4. The fourth Round Table of Parliamentarians will be organized during COP 5.

19. The AHWG was reconvened from 19 March to 6 April 2001, to complete the review of reports on the implementation of the Convention. Delegations from 93 country Parties and international organizations participated in the session. In accordance with decision 11/COP.1, representatives of the CST and the Global Mechanism also participated in the resumed session. In accordance with its mandate, the AHWG made a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, which are contained in the final report of COP 5. The local costs related to the session are reflected under the administrative programme.

20. The fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 5) will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 12 October 2001. Delegations from 175 Parties and Observers to the Convention are expected to participate, as well as representatives from several international organizations. COP 5 may wish to consider the adoption of the programme and budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the final report of the Ad Hoc Working Group, additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to review the implementation of the Convention, the improvement of the efficiency and the effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology, among other matters. An open-ended working group of experts will convene to analyse procedures on resolution of questions and conciliation and arbitration. The travel of staff is included under the estimates of each programme and the supplies under the administrative programme.

21. The ad hoc panels on traditional knowledge and early warning systems met in 2000. The former continued its work begun in 1999 to develop further appropriate criteria in line with future work on benchmarks and indicators to be used by national focal points, the latter for the first time to consider the matter of early warning systems on desertification in its broadest sense. In accordance with decision 14/COP.4, the ad hoc panel on early warning systems was reconvened in 2001. Phase I of the survey and evaluation of existing networks was completed. Terms of reference of phase II were approved by the Conference of the Parties on recommendation of the CST Bureau, and the secretariat was asked to enter into contractual arrangements with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for its implementation.

### 3.4. Facilitation of implementation and coordination

Table 8. Expenditure in 2000-2001 for the facilitation of implementation and coordination
(US dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Budget 2000-2001 | Africa unit | Asia unit | Latin American and the Caribbean unit | Northern Mediterranean unit | Actual total as at 30 June 2001 | Estimated expenditure 1 July 2001 to 31 Dec. 2001 | Total 2000-2001 expenditure | % | Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs (1 D1*, 3 P5, 4 P4, 3 P3,4 GS) | 2,764,100 | 487,283 | 678,715 | 348,059 | 226,238 | 1,740,295 | 879,000 | 2,619,295 | 94.8 | 148,998 |
| Consultants and experts | 695,600 | 137,517 | 64,709 | 121,100 | 0 | 323,326 | 360,500 | 683,826 | 98.3 | 239,554 |
| Travel of representatives and participants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1,031,484 |
| Travel of staff | 402,400 | 75,228 | 102,569 | 93,151 | 1,816 | 272,764 | 127,000 | 399,764 | 99.3 | 337,635 |
| Contractual Services | 20,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 55,188 |
| Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1,456,155 |
| **Total** | **3,882,100** | **700,028** | **845,993** | **562,310** | **228,054** | **2,336,385** | **1,366,500** | **3,702,885** | **95.4** | **3,269,014** |

*One D-1 post and one GS post have been accounted for under the Asia subprogramme. These posts serve programme policy coordination functions.

22. When considering the programme for facilitation of implementation and coordination, it should be noted that activities supported by the secretariat were often undertaken in coordination with support from other actors at the bilateral or multilateral levels, in order to achieve optimum results.

23. In the biennium, facilitation of implementation has included the formulation, launching and implementation of action programmes at national, subregional and regional levels as well as support to the preparation of national reports for submission to the COP. Support to the organization of 15 subregional meetings, 28 regional meetings and workshops and 6 interregional meetings was provided under the Supplementary Fund. Several other seminars, workshops and meetings at national, subregional and regional levels related to the Convention were facilitated through various subregional, regional and non-governmental institutions.

24. In 2000, 73 affected countries from regions other than Africa had submitted their national reports to COP 4. Added to the African reports prepared in 1999, a total of 114 affected countries have prepared their national reports and submitted them for the consideration of the COP. Together with the reports submitted by the developed countries, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations on their activities in Africa and other regions, the total number of reports submitted to the COP was 175.

25. Thirty-one national action programmes have been finalized, eight of them since 1999. At least seven additional national action programmes are expected to be finalized by the end of the year 2001. Seven subregional action programmes have been finalized. Six regional thematic programme networks (TPNs) have been prepared both in Africa and in Asia, of which two have been launched in Africa and three in Asia. One additional TPN in Africa and one in Asia are expected to be launched by the end of the year 2001. Three regional coordination units have started assisting the countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean regions, in accordance with the decisions of the relevant regional meetings.

26. Through the preparation and finalization of action programmes, the implementation of the Convention has been intensified in affected countries of all regions. The main emphasis in the biennium has been in supporting partnership arrangements for fostering implementation, as well as for integrating the national action programmes into sustainable development strategies, which have also began through consultative coordination meetings.

Table 9. Expenditure in 2000-2001 for the facilitation of implementation and coordination in the African region
(US dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Core Budget Actual as at 30 June 2001 | Core Budget Estimated 1 July 2001 to 31 Dec. 2001 | Core Budget Total estimated expenditure | Supplementary Actual as at 30 June 2001 | Supplementary estimated expenditure to 31 Dec. 2001 | Supplementary Fund Total estimated expenditure to 31 Dec. 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs (1 P5, 1 P4, 1 P3, 1 GS) | 487,283 | 289,280 | 776,563 | 145,998 | 58,600 | 204,598 |
| Consultants and experts | 137,517 | 150,000 | 287,517 | 49,787 | 35,000 | 84,787 |
| Travel of representatives and participants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 438,651 | 300,000 | 738,651 |
| Travel of staff | 75,228 | 37,000 | 112,228 | 154,268 | 75,000 | 229,268 |
| Contractual services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21,289 | 30,000 | 51,289 |
| Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 447,573 | 130,000 | 577,573 |
| **Total** | **700,028** | **476,280** | **1,176,308** | **1,257,566** | **628,600** | **1,886,166** |

27. Under the estimated total core budget of US$ 1,176,308, US$ 776,563 is used for salaries and other staff costs. Although one P-4 staff is listed under the expenditures of the Africa facilitation unit, it has to be noted that up to 70% of the capacity of the staff member was taken up by assignment on global issues, particularly the GEF and the collaboration with other conventions. US$ 112,228 is used for travel of staff to national, regional and subregional meetings, and US$ 287,517 for consultants and experts for the preparations of regional and subregional meetings. Support to the facilitation activities from the Supplementary Fund is estimated to amount US$ 1,886,166.

28. The affected African country Parties have been assisted in preparing and implementing national action programmes. Up to twenty national forums or seminars have been organized for this purpose. In addition, a consultation meeting between selected affected African countries and their development partners was organized in Cotonou, Benin, in February 2000. This meeting aimed at fostering the integration of the NAPs into national sustainable development strategies and launching consultative processes to conclude partnership agreements. As a follow up to the Cotonou meeting and with the objective to assist countries in further mainstreaming the NAP implementation process, the secretariat organized jointly with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) secretariat two workshops on the integration of priority activities relating to combat desertification into the country support strategies in the context of the ACP-European Union Partnership Agreement. Participants were UNCCD national focal points and national authorizing officers for the European Development Funds (EDF), coming from Eastern and Southern African countries for the workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2001, and from Western and Central African countries for the workshop held in Cotonou, Benin, in May 2001. Each of these workshops was followed by a one-day consultation aimed at reviewing the status of implementation of existing finalized NAPs.

29. Further development of subregional action programmes and resource mobilization for their implementation have been considered by some six subregional meetings. At the regional level, the fourth and fifth African regional conferences aimed at an in-depth and detailed discussion on the implementation of the Convention in Africa. Two thematic programme networks for Africa have been formally launched; a third one will begin its activities by the end of 2001.

30. In addition to the activities mentioned above, several other meetings and seminars are facilitated through various subregional, regional and non-governmental institutions. Through the African Regional Coordination Unit, the secretariat has, further, provided support for these facilitation activities.

31. African country Parties were also assisted in the preparation of their presentations to the Ad Hoc Working Group on review of implementation, which met during COP 4 and at its inter-sessional meeting in March/April 2001 in Bonn.

32. Results of the facilitation activities in the African region can be summarized as follows:

(a) Since 1999, six African countries have finalized their NAPs, bringing the total of finalized NAPs in Africa to nineteen. Some four other African countries are planning to complete the elaboration of their NAPs before the end of 2001. Several countries are in close contact with their bilateral and international partners, with the objective of jointly organizing a consultative coordination meeting to facilitate the conclusion of partnership arrangements, as foreseen in the relevant provisions of the Convention. The integration of the national action programmes in the development strategies of the affected countries has been considerably improved through the consultative processes between the countries concerned and their cooperating partners;

(b) At the subregional level, four subregional action programmes are in the implementation phase. The elaboration of a fifth SRAP has been launched;

(c) Since the designation of institutional focal points in 1999, three of the planned six TPNs for Africa have been launched, two having already held a formal launch meeting with all members. A third launch meeting will be organized before the end of 2001. Activities to begin operations of these TPNs are well under way, with support from the African Regional Coordination Unit;

(d) The fourth African Regional Conference has provided an opportunity for national focal points to examine in detail the progress made at national, subregional and regional levels. The fifth African Regional Conference, planned to be held shortly before the fifth Conference of the Parties, will focus on the recommendations made by the AHWG and on the main issues on the agenda of COP 5.

Table 10. Expenditure in 2000-2001 for the facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Asian region
(US dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Core budget Actual as at 30 June 2001 | Core budget Estimated 1 July 2001 to 31 Dec. 2001 | Core budget Total estimated expenditure | Supplementary Fund Actual as at 30 June 2001 | Supplementary Fund Estimated expenditure to 31 Dec. 2001 | Supplementary Fund Total estimated expenditure to 31 Dec. 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs (1 D1*, 1 P5, 2 P4, 1 P3, 1 GS) | 678,715 | 313,640 | 992,355 | 3,000 | 80,000 | 83,000 |
| Consultants and experts | 64,709 | 110,000 | 174,709 | 69,848 | 40,000 | 109,848 |
| Travel of representatives and participants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 462,016 | 135,000 | 597,016 |
| Travel of staff | 102,569 | 43,000 | 145,569 | 142,790 | 65,000 | 207,790 |
| Contractual services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31,899 | 25,000 | 56,899 |
| Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 684,045 | 135,000 | 819,045 |
| **Total** | **845,993** | **466,640** | **1,312,633** | **1,393,598** | **480,000** | **1,873,598** |

* One D-1 post and one GS post have been accounted for under the Asia subprogramme. These posts serve programme policy coordination functions.

33. Under the estimated total core budget of US$ 1,312,633, US$ 992,355 is used for salaries and other staff costs, US$ 145,569 is used for travel of staff to national, subregional and regional meetings and US$ 174,709 for consultants and experts to provide advice in the preparations of regional and subregional meetings. Support to these facilitation activities from the Supplementary Fund is estimated to total US$ 1,873,598.

34. When considering the subprogramme on facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Asian region, it should be noted that some activities to support countries in Eastern and Central Europe are also being undertaken by this subprogramme. Due to administrative arrangements within the UNCCD, the posting of the staff member mainly involved in the activities of the countries concerned is accounted for under the Asia subprogramme. After the entry into force of the new implementation annex for Eastern and Central Europe, the activities will be included in a new subprogramme for the biennium 2002-2003.

35. Affected Asian as well as some Central and Eastern European country Parties were assisted in the preparation of their national reports for the consideration of the fourth Conference of the Parties, through three subregional workshops and the provision of some financial and technical assistance. Furthermore, the formulation and launching of NAPs has been supported. Integration of the national action programmes priority activities in the country support strategies for the Pacific was strengthened by a workshop organized in May 2001, in cooperation with the ACP secretariat. Assistance was also provided to strengthen the role of national focal points in five Central Asian and four Eastern European countries. Preparations for the organization of a meeting to facilitate partnership agreements for the implementation of the China's NAP were carried out.

36. Preparatory meetings to establish a subregional action programme to combat desertification in the Aral Sea Basin (SRAP/CD) were organized in July 2000 and April 2001. A meeting on the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Central Asia in preparation of the SRAP/CD will be organized in September 2001 in Uzbekistan. The secretariat will participate in July 2001 in Tajikistan in a meeting on the preparation of the projects on combating desertification within the framework of the regional environmental action plan (REAP) for Central Asia and contribute to the integration of the SRAP/CD into REAP activities. At the regional level, it is planned that a meeting for country Parties to the Convention from Central and Eastern Europe will be organized in September 2001 in Prague.

37. The secretariat actively participated in meetings related to the Western Asian subregional programme. The programme is coordinated by UNEP's regional office in Western Asia (UNEP/ROWA), according to a decision taken by country Parties during a meeting in Dubai in 2000. Initiatives aim at establishing pilot sites for TPNs 1 and 2 on water resources and matters pertaining to vegetative cover respectively. A steering committee was convened during the Ad Hoc Working Group session which reviewed the various project proposals submitted by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Land (ACSAD) and decided to elaborate proposals for the establishment of data bases on ongoing and past activities within the region.

38. The third regional conference for Asian focal points was held, aiming at an in-depth and detailed discussion on the national reports and the implementation of the Convention in Asia. The fourth Asian focal points meeting held in June 2001 discussed mainly the NAP process and future activities under potential GEF funding. With regard to TPNs for Asia, a working group meeting for TPN 1 was held, TPN 2 and TPN 3 were officially launched, and preparatory work for TPN 4 is being pursued.

39. In addition to the activities mentioned above, several other meetings and seminars have been facilitated through various subregional, regional and non-governmental institutions. The secretariat has further provided, through the Asian Regional Coordination Unit, its expertise and support for these facilitation activities.

40. Results of the facilitation activities can be summarized as follows:

(a) 37 Asian and Central and Eastern European country Parties have submitted their national reports in due time for COP 4;

(b) Preparations for two subregional action programmes, for Western Asia and for Central Asia, are advancing;

(c) Institutional supports for national focal points in five Central Asian and four Eastern European countries have contributed to greater awareness of UNCCD-related issues;

(d) Three additional Asian countries, as well as two countries in Central and Eastern Europe, have finalized their NAPs since 1999, bringing the total number to nine. Several other countries in the region launched the process of elaborating their NAPs during the biennium. The integration of the NAPs in the development strategies was strengthened in cooperation with multilateral and bilateral partners;

(e) TPN 1 on desertification monitoring and assessment has moved into its operational phase. An expert group has laid the ground for further work by providing 24 reports on monitoring and assessment methodologies used in their countries. TPN 2 on agroforestry and soil conservation in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas, and TPN 3 on rangeland management and sand dune fixation were launched on the basis of regional consensus. Programme elements and operational modalities were discussed and subsequently agreed upon. With regard to TPN 4 on water resources management for agriculture in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas, and TPN 5 on strengthening capacities for mitigating drought impact and combating desertification, preparatory activities are being undertaken.

Table 11. Expenditure in 2000-2001 for the facilitation of implementation and coordination the in Latin American and the Caribbean region (US dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Core budget Actual as at 30 June 2001 | Core budget Estimated 1 July 2001 to 31 Dec. 2001 | Core budget Total estimated expenditure | Supplementary Fund Actual as at 30 June 2001 | Supplementary Fund Estimated expenditure to 31 Dec. 2001 | Supplementary Fund Total estimated expenditure to 31 Dec. 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs (1 L5, 1 P3, 1 GS) | 348,359 | 185,200 | 533,259 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Consultants and experts | 121,100 | 100,500 | 221,600 | 113,729 | 20,000 | 133,729 |
| Travel of representatives and participants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 110,963 | 141,000 | 251,963 |
| Travel of staff | 93,151 | 38,000 | 131,151 | 32,931 | 85,000 | 117,931 |
| Contractual services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 20,000 | 22,000 |
| Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 324,537 | 108,000 | 432,537 |
| **Total** | **562,310** | **323,700** | **886,010** | **584,160** | **374,000** | **958,160** |

41. Under the estimated total core budget of US$ 886,010, US$ 533,259 is used for salaries and other staff costs, US$ 221,600 for consultancies, and US$ 131,151 for the travel of staff. Support to the facilitation activities from the Supplementary Fund is estimated to amount to US$ 958,160.

42. During the biennium all countries from the region became Parties to the Convention. The secretariat has provided support to facilitate the organization of national awareness-raising seminars in five additional country Parties. The affected Latin American and the Caribbean country Parties were assisted in the preparation of their national reports for the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties through a coordination meeting and some technical and financial assistance.

43. Furthermore, the NAP formulation in two countries and launching of such programmes in others have been supported. The organization of consultation meetings between affected country Parties and their development partners for the implementation of NAPs are being prepared in two countries. In consultation with

the countries of the region, the secretariat is also setting a schedule for the formulation of further NAPs, pursuant to decision 8/COP.4.

44. In cooperation with the ACP secretariat, a meeting on the integration of priority activities related to combating land degradation into the country support strategy was organized in the Caribbean in May 2001, in the framework of the ACP/EU partnership agreement.

45. The secretariat is also supporting the organization of three workshops on synergies among environmental and sustainable development treaties at the national level in Bolivia, Cuba and El Salvador. Initial elements for a regional synergy project on the seven Central American countries have been developed.

46. At the regional level, the sixth regional meeting of Latin American and the Caribbean country Parties provided an opportunity for an in-depth and detailed discussion on the national reports and the implementation of the Convention in the region. The seventh regional meeting will be held in August 2001 in Chile. The meeting will consider the results of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the region, particularly the issues concerning the valorization of traditional knowledge and the use of benchmarks and indicators.

47. The secretariat has provided, through the Regional Coordination Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean, further support to the facilitation activities. The secretariat continued to provide support for the publication of the news bulletin online, which is sent out through the Information Network on Desertification and Drought (DESELAC) to more than 350 subscribers consisting of national focal points, government authorities, NGOs, academics and representatives of affected communities. Through DESELAC, the secretariat also supported some countries in improving their own connection to the regional desertification information system.

48. The secretariat will facilitate the organization of a regional workshop on watershed management to take place in Venezuela in September 2001, which will address specific issues, such as exchange of information, database management and use, regional and subregional cooperation and project identification.

49. Taking into account the interregional platform of cooperation between Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean country Parties, a seminar was held in Cuba, with the participation of experts coming from Cuba, Mali and Venezuela, to exchange views on matters of land degradation, particularly soil salinity. The countries attending the meeting formulated specific project proposals, which they agreed to submit to the GEF for funding.

50. Results of the activities can be summarized as follows:

(a) Thirty countries submitted their national reports and all the thirty-three countries that form the region became Parties to the Convention;

(b) During the biennium 2000-2001, six countries in the region held national awareness seminars, resulting in greater involvement of the wider public as well as the scientific community, in the fight against land degradation in the region;

(c) Two more countries are in the process of finalizing their NAPs;

(d) Cuba and Bolivia continued their preparation for consultations towards the development of partnership agreements in the implementation of their NAPs. The total number of the finalized national action programmes is seven. The integration of the NAPs in the development strategies has been strengthened during the consultative processes between the countries concerned and their cooperating partners;

(3) The strong interest shown in the development of synergistic projects at country level has already been addressed in three countries. The scheme will be expanded to additional countries, in close collaboration with relevant environmental and sustainable development organizations. The modalities for implementation of the three subregional projects, as well as the regional action programme, have been defined.

Table 12. Expenditure in 2000-2001 for the facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Northern Mediterranean region and other countries
(US dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Core budget Actual expenditure as at 30 June 2001 | Core budget Estimated expenditure 1 July 2001 to 31 Dec. 2001 | Core budget Total estimated expenditure | Supplementary Fund Actual expenditure as at 30 June 2001 | Supplementary Fund Estimated expenditure to 31 Dec. 2001 | Supplementary Fund Total estimated expenditure to 31 Dec. 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs (1 P4, 1 GS) | 226,238 | 90,880 | 317,118 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Consultants and experts | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,190 | 0 | 6,190 |
| Travel of representatives and participants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19,854 | 0 | 19,854 |
| Travel of staff | 1,816 | 9,000 | 10,816 | 7,646 | | 7,646 |
| Contractual services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **228,054** | **99,880** | **327,934** | **33,690** | **0** | **33,690** |

51. The estimated total expenditure from the core budget of US$ 327,934 will be used for salaries and other staff costs. The secretarial services of the subprogramme for the Northern Mediterranean region were also used in 2000 for the EDM. In 2001, it is the secretarial services of the EDM which provides the subprogramme for the Northern Mediterranean region with secretarial services. Support to the facilitation activities from the Supplementary Fund is estimated to amount to US$ 33,690.

52. Facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Northern Mediterranean region included technical support to the NAP process in Northern Mediterranean countries as well as to the RAP process. Ministerial meetings and focal points meetings of the Annex IV countries were organized during the period with the

participation of the secretariat. At interregional level, technical support was provided for the organization of a Mediterranean workshop on the linkages between the UNCCD and other relevant conventions and for the organization of a meeting on land degradation and desertification in the Mediterranean region.

53. Results of the facilitation activities can be summarized as follows:

(a) Technical supports provided to the national focal points and to the organization of regional meetings have contributed to promote the Convention and strengthen its implementation in the countries concerned. At regional level, the finalization and adoption of the terms of reference of the RAP and the initiation of thematic programme networks were facilitated;

(b) Assistance to the preparation of the COPs and the AHWG have contributed to sound presentations of national and regional reports from the countries of the region.

### 3.5. External relations and public information and NGOs

Table 13. Expenditure in 2000-2001 for external relations and public information and NGOs
(US dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Budget 2000-2001 | Actual expenditure to 30 June 2001 | Estimated expenditure to 31 Dec. 2001 | Total estimated expenditure | % | Total estimated Supplementary Fund |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs (1 P4, 1 P3, 2 P2, 1 GS) | 712,200 | 528,740 | 182,000 | 710,740 | 99.8 | 135,748 |
| Consultants and experts | 84,000 | 43,780 | 40,000 | 83,780 | 99.7 | 36,472 |
| Travel of participants and representatives | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 476,236 |
| Travel of staff | 150,000 | 92,997 | 57,000 | 149,997 | 100.0 | 135,829 |
| Contractual services | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0.0 | 48,492 |
| Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 176,530 |
| **Total** | **946,200** | **665,517** | **279,000** | **944,517** | **99.8** | **1,009,307** |

54. Under the estimated total core budget of US$ 944,517, US$ 710,740 is used for salaries and other staff costs, US$ 83,780 for consultancies and US$ 149,997 for travel of staff. Travel included meetings relevant to the UNCCD process, particularly of the governing bodies of other Rio conventions and partner institutions as well as the General Assembly. Consultants have assisted in drafting technical documents and compiling information on synergies with other conventions and other documents for the COP. Support to NGOs and costs of contractual services are expected to amount to US$ 1,009,307 from the Supplementary Fund.

55. External relations and public information activities focus on three topics: inter-agency coordination, cooperation with non-governmental organizations and public information.

56. Inter-agency coordination activities include active participation in meetings and regular consultations with key partner agencies supporting the implementation of the Convention. The development of memoranda to strengthen cooperation with these partners has continued.

57. Cooperation with the non-governmental community includes support to NGO participation in the COP and other related meetings, and the strengthening of their outreach and awareness raising capacities and strengthening of their institutional capacities. NGOs are also supported in coordinating their input to subregional, regional and global conferences related to combating desertification.

58. Public information activities include publication of the UNCCD newsletter, re-prints of UNCCD information kits, production of memorabilia for COP 4 and COP 5, and preparations for the celebration of World Desertification Day on June 17, including in particular the June 17 Media Award. The participation of representatives of the media in COP 4 was facilitated, and it is anticipated that similar services will be provided during COP 5. In addition, public information activities include collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Italian Government in the production of a teacher's kit on desertification and the setting up of a media database and a database for UNCCD publications. The UNCCD Web page has been upgraded and received very positive feedback from the users.

59. Results of the activities described above can be summarized as follows:

(a) Strengthened relationships with the secretariats of other relevant conventions, and with international financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations;

(b) The contribution from NGO actors is recognized and acknowledged as an important aspect in the formulation of projects, programmes and policies for implementation of the Convention. In various meetings, NGOs have drawn attention to the local communities problems and approaches relating to desertification and land degradation. At the local level, they have a crucial role to play in promoting grassroots involvement and the application of best practices in implementation of the Convention;

(c) Promoted and facilitated inter-sectoral and interregional dialogue, as well as raised awareness of the problem of desertification through information material to emphasize the global character of desertification and its interrelations with other social and environmental issues, especially biodiversity and climate change.

### 3.6. Administration and finance

Table 14. Expenditure in 2000-2001 for administration and finance
(US dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Budget 2000-2001 | Actual expenditure as at 30 June 2001 | Projected expenditure 1 July to 31 Dec. 2001 | Total estimated expenditure to 31 Dec. 2001 | % of budget expenditure 2000-2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Other personnel related cost | 499,200 | 427,205 | 82,000 | 509,205 | 102.0 |
| Consultants and experts | 100,000 | 33,799 | 66,000 | 99,799 | 99.8 |
| Travel of staff | 110,000 | 46,912 | 63,000 | 109,912 | 99.9 |
| Contractual services | 504,400 | 266,181 | 230,000 | 496,181 | 98.4 |
| General operating expenses | 369,700 | 164,093 | 160,000 | 324,093 | 87.7 |
| Supplies and materials | 100,000 | 43,542 | 55,000 | 98,542 | 98.5 |
| Furniture and equipment | 50,000 | 10,757 | 38,000 | 48,757 | 97.5 |
| Contributions to joint activities | 300,000 | 201,320 | 100,000 | 301,320 | 100.4 |
| **Total** | **2,033,300** | **1,193,809** | **794,000** | **1,987,809** | **97.8** |

60. Under this programme, it is estimated that US$ 1,987,809 of the core budget will be used for temporary assistance, administration and finance-related travel, and general operating expenses of the UNCCD, that is, for communications (telephone, fax, postage, pouches), rental and maintenance of UNCCD office premises, supplies and materials, rental and maintenance of photocopying and fax equipment, and contractual services in relation to the preparations of COP 4 in Bonn. As already specified in table 21 of document ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.1, the incremental costs of US$ 835,000 including the overhead of holding the COP 4 in Bonn, were covered under the "Bonn Fund", additional supplementary funding by the German government and savings from the core budget. The cost of contractual services relating to the organization of the Ad Hoc Working Group meeting held in March 2001 is included under this programme.

61. Results from the administration and finance programme include:

(a) Improvements in the quality and timely submission of reports to the donor community on the utilization of their voluntary contributions;

(b) The development of job descriptions and the recruitment process relating to all approved posts;

(c) The implementation of the performance appraisal system (PAS);

(d) The development of internal administrative financial controls and policies with the aim to ensure that all resources should be properly recorded, controlled and utilized;

(e) The development of an internal automated financial monitoring system;

(f) Assistance in the first external audit of the secretariat.

### 3.7. Global Mechanism

Table 15. Income and expenditure of the Global Mechanism in 2000
(US dollars)

| | 2000 | | % Utilization | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Projected to 31 Dec. 2000 | Actual as at 31 Dec. 2000 | | |
| **INCOME** | | | | |
| *Balance brought forward from 1999* | 178,419 | 178,419 | | |
| *Prior year adjustment* | | 60,000 | | See below |
| **CONTRIBUTIONS** | | | | |
| Budget from UNCCD | 1,300,000 | 1,093,400 | | |
| To be paid in 2001 | | 206,600 | | |
| Administrative overhead contribution 8% of US$ 1,300,000 | 104,000 | 0 | | |
| To be paid in 2001 | | 104,000 | | |
| **Total** | **1,582,419** | **1,642,419** | | |
| | | | | |
| **EXPENDITURE** | Total 2000 budget | Actual as per accounting records | | |
| 1. Staff costs | 800,000 | 712,000 | 89% | |
| 2. Duty travel | 205,000 | 194,000 | 95% | |
| 3. Consultancies and short-term support | 159,000 | 152,000 | 96% | |
| 4. General operating expenses | 4,000 | 2,000 | 50% | |
| 5. Supplies and equipment | 65,000 | 31,000 | 48% | |
| 6. Contractual services | 95,000 | 50,000 | 53% | |
| 7. Seminars, consultations and workshops | 150,000 | 114,000 | 76% | |
| **Subtotal** | **1,478,000** | **1,255,000** | **85%** | |
| Prior year adjustment | | 60,000 | | See above |
| Funds committed not accrued (incl. rounding) | | 18,892 | | |
| 8. IFAD service charges | 104,000 | 104,000 | 100% | |
| | | | | |
| **Total** | **1,582,000** | **1,437,892** | 91% | |
| | | | | |
| *Balance carried forward to 2001* | | 204,527 | | |
| | | | | |
| | | **1,642,419** | | |

62. COP 3 approved a budget of US$ 1,300,000 for the year 2000 for the Global Mechanism. An amount of US$ 178,419 was brought forward from 1999 to 2000 resulting in a total amount of US$ 1,478,419 available for the year. This, including an overhead of US$ 104,000, totals US$ 1,582,419.

63. Table 15 shows the budget allocations and the actual amounts spent on each budget line. The table shows that 91% of the budget was used at the end of the year but with prior year adjustments this left a carry forward to 2001 of US$ 204,572. Forty three per cent of this carry forward was related to costs of fixed term staff of the Global Mechanism, as the final cost of this category of the budget can only

be determined at the end of the financial year. The balance 57% was related to other budget categories reflecting a slight delay in the implementation of related activities.

64. Table 16 shows the current status of the revised budget for 2001, which includes the carry forward from 2000 provided above. As at end July, 72% of the budget has been committed. It is currently expected that at least approximately 98% of the budget will be utilized at the year-end. The reason for expecting this lower than 100% utilisation is because final costs, in particular, those relating to fixed term staff may be lower than the budget allocation as certain costs thereof can only be exactly determined after year end. Among the factors for this is the ITL/US$ exchange rate fluctuation which is taken into account for determining the applicable post adjustment and for recording GS salary costs (for the last couple of years the impact of the strengthening of the US$ has resulted in savings rather than losses or additional expenditure).

Table 16. Income and expenditure of the Global Mechanism in 2001
(US dollars)

| | | **2001**1/ | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Projected to 31 Dec. 2001 | Actual as at 30 June 2001 | | |
| **INCOME** | | | | |
| *Balance brought forward from 2000* | 204,527 | 204,527 | | |
| **CONTRIBUTIONS** | | | | |
| Budget from UNCCD | 1,350,000 | 0 | | |
| To be paid | | 1,350,000 | | |
| Administrative overhead contribution 8% of US$ 1,350,000 | 108,000 | 0 | | |
| To be paid | | 108,000 | | |
| **Total** | **1,662,527** | **1,662,527** | | |
| | | | | |
| **EXPENDITURE** | Total budget | Actual as per accounting records | Funds committed to 31 July 2001 | Total estimated expenditure to 31 Dec. 2001 |
| 1. Staff costs | 876,000 | 321,271 | 848,732 | 848,732 |
| 2. Duty travel | 213,000 | 61,751 | 136,402 | 213,000 |
| 3. Consultancies and short-term support | 340,000 | 35,436 | 58,768 | 340,000 |
| 4. General operating expenses | 35,257 | 7,386 | 10,069 | 32,000 |
| 5. Supplies and equipment | 65,000 | 5,077 | 44,570 | 65,000 |
| 6. Contractual services | 25,000 | 182 | 12,566 | 25,000 |
| **Subtotal** | **1,554,257** | **431,103** | **1,111,107** | **1,523,732** |
| 7. IFAD service charges | 108,000 | 0 | 27,354 | 108,000 |
| **Total** | **1,662,257** | **431,103** | **1,138,461** | **1,631,732** |

*1/ These figures do not include Accruals as at 30/06/2001*

## B. Supplementary contribution to Convention activities from the host Government (Bonn Fund)

65. In the biennium 2000-2001, a supplementary contribution of two million DM (US$ 900,577) has been received from the host Government for Convention-related activities and events, as shown in table 17.

Table 17. Supplementary contribution to Convention activities from the host Government (Bonn Fund) for 2000-2001
(US dollars)

| Activity | Actual expenditure |
|---|---|
| **Actual expenditure as at 30 June 2001** | |
| Fourth session of the Conference of the Parties<br>- temporary assistance<br>- other costs* including *i.a.* preparation and renting of conference facilities, and services of local staff | 291,799 |
| Meeting of selected African focal points on consultative processes and partnership agreements (Cotonou, Benin, February 2000) | 25,007 |
| Second Africa-Latin America and the Caribbean Forum (Bamako, Mali, March 2000) | 50,800 |
| Workshop on land degradation and desertification in Central and Eastern Europe (Brussels, Belgium, May 2000) | 9,680 |
| Meeting on early warning systems (Bonn, Germany, May-June 2000) | 21,918 |
| Support to provide for the launch meeting of the thematic network programme on agroforestry and soil conservation for Africa (Lomé, Togo, June 2001) | 37,825 |
| Support to provide for the launch meeting of the thematic network programme on water resources management for agriculture for Asia (Damascus, Syria, May 2001) | 37,000 |
| Support to provide for the organization of a UNCCD/ACP workshop on the integration of NAPs into the country support strategies of the ACP countries (Cotonou, Benin, February 2001) | 100,942 |
| Support to provide for the organization of a workshop on the development of a joint work programme between the UNCCD and the CBD on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands (Bonn, Germany, April 2001) | 40,000 |
| Support to provide for the preparation of a technical workshop on watershed management (Caracas, Venezuela, July 2001) | 35,000 |
| Support to provide for the substantive preparation of the third Afro-Asia forum on implementation of the UNCCD (Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia, June 2001) | 20,000 |
| Support to provide for the organization of the ad hoc panel meeting on early warning systems (Fuji-Yoshida, Japan, June 2001) | 27,000 |
| **Total actual expenditure** | **696,971** |
| **Estimated expenditure to 31 December 2001** | |
| Support to provide for the organization of a workshop on the development of synergy among the three Rio conventions at country level (La Paz, Bolivia, July 2001) | 40,000 |
| Support to provide for the activities of the thematic programme network on agroforestry and soil conservation for Asia (India, July 2001) | 30,000 |
| Support to provide for the launch of the thematic programme network on rangeland and the development of fodder crops (Nairobi, Kenya, May 2001) | 30,000 |
| **Total estimated expenditure** | **100,000** |
| **Subtotal** | **796,971** |
| 13% Programme support costs | 103,606 |
| **Total expenditures** | **900,577** |

* Co-financed through supplementary funds

C. Special fund for participation

Table 18. Status of Special fund for participation
Expenditure report as at 30 June 2001
(US dollars)

| **Income** | |
|---|---|
| Balance brought forward from 1999 | 405,455 |
| Interest savings and prior years adjustments | 0 |
| Contributions received in 2000-2001 | 840,321 |
| Contributions received for the Ad Hoc Working Group | 50,869 |
| Transfer from core budget (decision 4/COP.4) | 332,400 |
| Interest earned in 2000-2001 | 50,067 |
| **Total income 2000-2001** | **1,679,112** |
| | |
| **Expenditures** | |
| Bureau meetings and informal consultations | 120,432 |
| Travel of 166 participants to COP 4 | 622,549 |
| Travel of 217 participants to COP 5 | 1,103,930 |
| Travel of 89 participants to the session of the Ad Hoc Working Group | 278,983 |
| Total direct expenditures | 2,125,894 |
| 13% programme support costs | 276,366 |
| **Total estimated expenditures** | **2,402,260** |
| **Shortfall** | **(723,148)** |

66. As indicated in table 18 above, an amount of US$ 50,869 was received under special fund for participation in order to facilitate participation of representatives of developing countries in the Ad Hoc Working Group meeting held in Bonn in March 2001. In accordance with decision 4/COP.4, the transfer from the core budget to the special fund for participation will have to be adjusted accordingly during the year end closure of accounts.

67. Total expenditure under the Participation Fund in the biennium is estimated to amount to US$ 2,402,260, which includes 13% programme support costs.

## III. HUMAN RESOURCES

### A. Core budget

68. The approved staffing table for the secretariat under the 2000-2001 core budget comprises 30 posts in the Professional and higher categories, and 13 posts in the General Service category. Recruitment process is under way to fill some vacant posts. It should be noted, however, that although 43 posts were approved, the corresponding approved budget was not sufficient to cover the cost of 6 posts (4 P-4, 1 P-2 and 1 GS).

Table 19. Comparison of approved and filled posts for the year 2001 as at 30 June 2001

| Category | Approved | Filled | Gender | | Region | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | M | F | Africa | Asia | Europe | Latin America and the Caribbean | North America |
| ASG | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| D-1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| P-5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| P-4 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| P-3 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| P-2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **30** | **20** | **15** | **5** | **8** | **3** | **5** | **3** | **1** |
| GS | 13 | 13 | 3 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | **43** | **33** | **18** | **15** | **11** | **6** | **10** | **4** | **2** |

### B. Programme support costs

69. In the biennium 2000-2001, the United Nations issued to the UNCCD secretariat an allotment advice totalling US$ 770,000 under which salaries and related costs of one P-5, one P-3 and 11 General Service posts and rental and maintenance of equipment and communication costs are being charged. The allocation for these costs was requested in accordance with the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties during its second session. Some of the posts funded under programme support income are those of administrative and finance staff in Administration and Finance, as well as cost relating to liaison facilities. As the UNCCD secretariat has assumed more administrative and financial functions and responsibilities formerly provided by the United Nations, it continues to negotiate for a bigger share of the programme support income earned from the UNCCD trust funds, so as to increase capacity within the administration and finance unit.

## IV. WORKING CAPITAL RESERVE

70. Paragraph 9 of the UNCCD Financial Rules states: "Within the General Fund there shall be maintained a working capital reserve at a level to be determined from time to time by the Conference of the Parties by consensus. The purpose of the working capital reserve shall be to ensure the continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash. Drawbacks from the working capital reserve shall be restored from contributions as soon as possible." As at 30 June 2001 there was no need to draw from the working capital reserve.

71. At its second session the COP reaffirmed that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund should be set at a level of 8.3 per cent of core budget expenditure.

## V. COMMON ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN BONN

72. In March 2001 the external auditors conducted a review of the possibilities for establishing common administrative services in Bonn. It was recommended that this matter should receive further consideration, which should be based on detailed cost benefit analysis by both participating organizations. The Executive Secretary wishes to continue consultations with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the coming biennium.

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